

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PRETOR 07051 221624Z

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 HA-05 SSO-00 NSCE-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 /076 W

-----126544 221628Z /53

O R 221540Z DEC 77

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0009

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PDEV, RH

SUBJ: RHODESIA: INTERNAL TALKS

1. DECEMBER 22 SOUTH AFRICAN PRESS REPORTS THAT AT SEVENTH MEETING OF THE SALISBURY TALKS ON DEC. 21, ALL THREE NATIONALIST DELEGATES PRESENTED PAPERS ON WHITE REPRESENTATION IN PARLIAMENT. THE ACCOUNTS FROM SALISBURY EMPHASIZE THAT THE NATIONALISTS HAVE AGREED TO THE PRINCIPLE OF A GUARANTEED NUMBER OF SEATS FOR WHITES. ONE ARTICLE REPORTS THAT SITHOLE AND MUZOREWA ARE STILL INSISTING IT BE NO MORE THAN 20 PERCENT WHILE SMITH CONTINUES TO DEMAND ONE-THIRD OF THE SEATS. A RHODESIAN GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN IS QUOTED IN ONE ARTICLE AS SAYING THERE HAS BEEN "A SMALL BREAKTHROUGH." ANOTHER ACCOUNT CHARACTERIZES THE ACHIEVEMENTS AS MAJOR BECAUSE THE BLACKS HAVE ACCEPTED THE PRINCIPLE OF A BLOCKING

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MECHANISM AND WITHDRAWN DEMANDS FOR A COMMON VOTING ROLL.

2. COMMENT: EXCEPT FOR THIS LATTER ACCOUNT, WE HAVE NO INDICATION THAT MUZOREWA OR SITHOLE HAVE DROPPED THEIR INSISTENCE ON A COMMON ROLL. THE NATIONALISTS EARLY ON ACCEPTED THE PRINCIPLE OF A GUARANTEE OF WHITE SEATS, THE ONLY POINT OF CONTENTION BEING THE PERCENTAGE OF THOSE SEATS AND WHETHER

THERE WOULD BE SEPARATE VOTER ROLLS (PRETORIA 6985).

3. THE EIGHTH MEETING IS REPORTEDLY TAKING PLACE TODAY,
DEC. 22.BOWDLER

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Message Attributes

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